

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
PCT/IB2003/00688, filed February 25, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 15. (canceled).

16. (New) An assembly comprising an object, a support and, on said support, a fixing element for removably connecting said support to said object and defining a pivot axis between said object and said support, particularly in order to present alternately a first face and a second face of said support, said faces lying on either side of a mid-plane in the vicinity of said fixing element, when said object and said support are mutually arranged in a first or second stable position, respectively, wherein

 said fixing element has a pivot comprising a body connected to said support, and a base formed at its free end, and

 in that a cavity is formed on said object, said cavity comprising
 a first opening designed to allow said base to be inserted into said cavity and
 being continued by an elongate second opening extending transversely with respect to the
 direction of said pivot axis and parallel to said mid-plane in a stable position, said elongate
 second opening being designed to guide said pivot and permit a relative movement of said object
 and of said support to bring them to a stable position,

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said support also comprising retractable locking means designed to engage with matching cavities in said stable position.

17. (New) The assembly according to claim 16, wherein said locking means comprise at least one retractable ball.

18. (New) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein said ball is retractable along an axis parallel to said pivot axis.

19. (New) The assembly according to claim 16, wherein said object is a watch case comprising a middle in which two cavities are formed, and in that said support is a strap having two free ends, each carrying a fixing element.

20. (New) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein said object is a watch case comprising a middle in which two cavities are formed, and in that said support is a strap having two free ends, each carrying a fixing element.

21. (New) The assembly according to claim 18, wherein said object is a watch case comprising a middle in which two cavities are formed, and in that said support is a strap having two free ends, each carrying a fixing element.

22. (New) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein said middle has lugs containing said cavities, and wherein said ball is retractable along an axis perpendicular to said pivot axis.

23. (New) The assembly according to claim 20, wherein said middle has lugs containing said cavities, and wherein said ball is retractable along an axis perpendicular to said pivot axis.

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24. (New) The assembly according to claim 22, wherein said pivot axis is situated halfway between said lugs.

25. (New) The assembly according to claim 23, wherein said pivot axis is situated halfway between said lugs.

26. (New) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein said watch case comprises two middles joined together.

27. (New) The assembly according to claim 20, wherein said watch case comprises two middles joined together.

28. (New) The assembly according to claim 21, wherein said watch case comprises two middles joined together.

29. (New) The assembly according to claim 22, wherein said watch case comprises two middles joined together.

30. (New) The assembly according to claim 24, wherein said watch case comprises two middles joined together.

31. (New) The assembly according to claim 16, wherein said cavity is formed in a plate which is fixed to said object.

32. (New) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein said cavity is formed in a plate which is fixed to said object.

33. (New) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein said cavity is formed in a plate which is fixed to said object.

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34. (New) The assembly according to claim 31, wherein said plate is screwed to said object.
35. (New) The assembly according to claim 33, wherein said plate is screwed to said object.